

Change for the Ohio Nurse Practitioner Treating Worker's Compensation Patients: A Needs Analysis

Jessica Huff, MSN, RN, FNP-BC; Joy Shoemaker, DNP, APRN.CNP, FNP-BC, CNE; Amy Hotler, DNP, RN, LSN

Otterbein University, Westerville, Ohio

Background

- In Ohio, the work-related injuries fall under treatment guidelines of the Ohio worker's compensation (WC) program.
- NPs can provide all relevant care to the injured worker per Ohio practice law.
- NPs are unable to complete all required WC paperwork under current WC law.
- The Medco-14 form- the WC return to work form- requires the NP to have a physician signature and is required at every WC patient visit.

Problem Statement

In patient's seeking Worker's Compensation care, how would allowing nurse practitioner's signing Medco-14 forms compared to the way in which chiropractors and physicians sign them, affect patient work restrictions during Worker's Compensation visits?

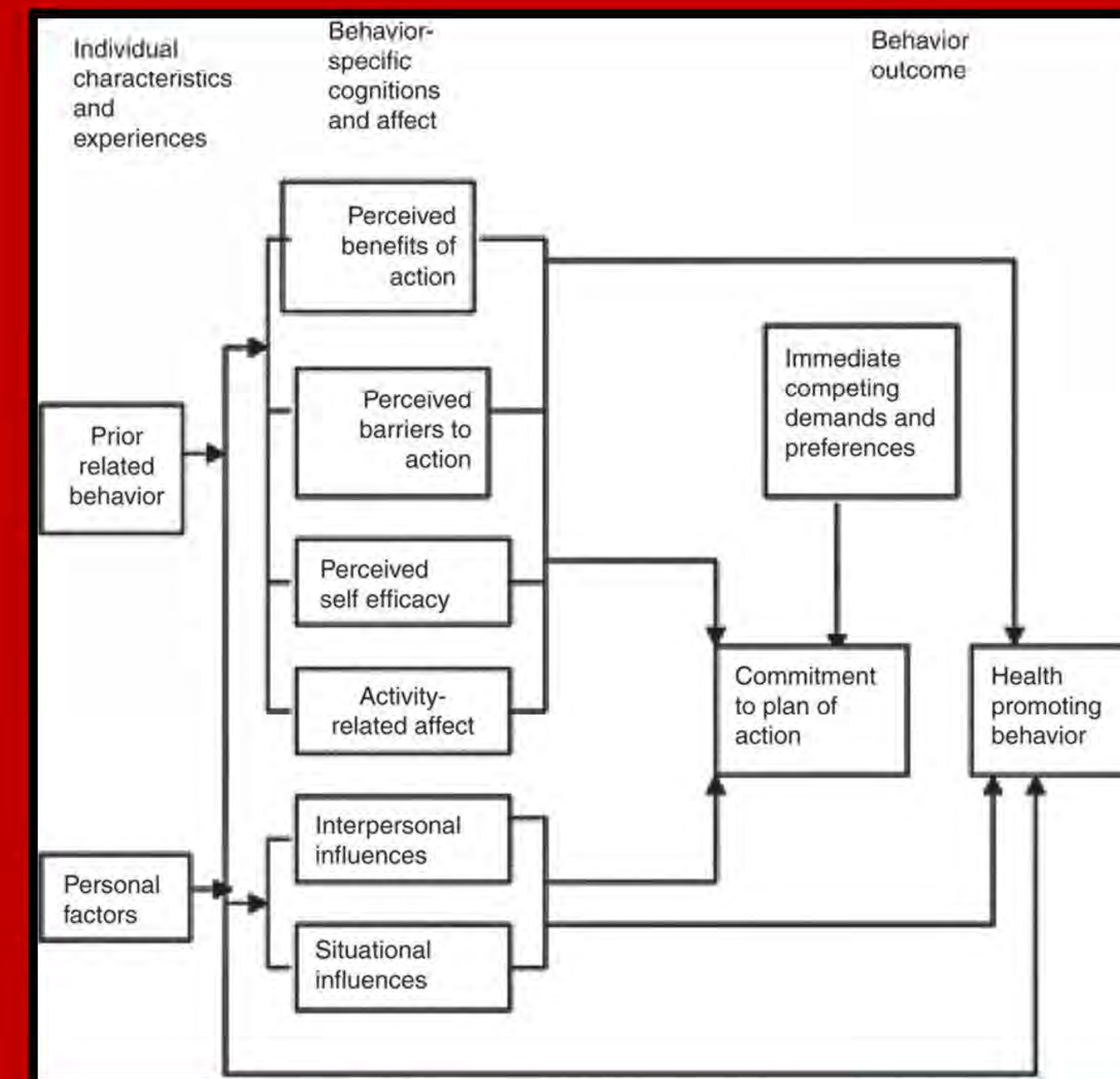
Significance to Nursing

- NPs can treat patients, order testing, write prescriptions- including narcotics, and recommend referrals and follow-ups for WC patients without difficulty or restrictions.
- NPs are unable to provide the WC patient with the required return to work paperwork.
- NPs are filling a need in settings such as occupational medicine and urgent care centers where WC patients are typically treated.
- NPs can provide full spectrum patient care to injured workers but are unable to sign the required WC paperwork the patient needs to return to work.
- The paperwork – Medco-14 form- therefore limits the ability of these NPs to provide care to WC patients unless a physician is available to sign the Medco-14 form.

Objectives

- Conduct a review using the Ohio WC provider directory to establish the number of NPs eligible to provide care for WC patients.
- Complete a chart review of 70 random initial work injury evaluation patients using a rural Ohio county's Occupational Medicine Clinic's electronic medical record (EMR) system reviewing Medco-14 forms and chart note comments regarding work restrictions for patients evaluated by the NP.
- Present project findings with recommendations for practice to a professional nursing organization whose goal is to improve legislation and practice for Ohio APNs.

Theoretical Framework Nola Pender's Health Promotion Model



Data Collection & Analyzation

- Eligible NPs in Ohio to treat WC patients
- A chart review of the Medco-14 forms completed by the NP and reviewed by the physician.
- 100% of the charts had no difference between NP and physician work restriction recommendations

Methods

- Retrospective Chart Review
- Chart review completed using EMR
- Descriptive statistics to describe findings

Example of data collection from chart review

Patient Initials	Date of Visit	Visit Type (FROI, New)	Change to Medco-14 by physician from what NP suggested
	1/13/15	FROI	No
	10/27/14	New	No
	10/27/14	FROI	No

Target Population & Sample

- NPs treating Ohio WC patients in the Occupational Medicine clinic
- Randomly selected NP patient charts from past schedule
- 70 initial injury charts reviewed
- Required Medco-14 must be present in chart for review

Facilitators

- All WC provider data is available online via the BWC website
- All data for WC patients is electronic
- Chart reviews conducted without difficulty due to EMR system

Limitations

- The number of charts reviewed.
- No comparison of NP restrictions as compared to a chiropractor.
- Did not examine whether NP collaborated medically with physician.

Conclusion

The goal of this project was to complete a needs analysis assessment. The success of this project was based on whether enough data could be collected to make an informed decision on the need for a legislative practice change regarding NPs and the Medco-14.

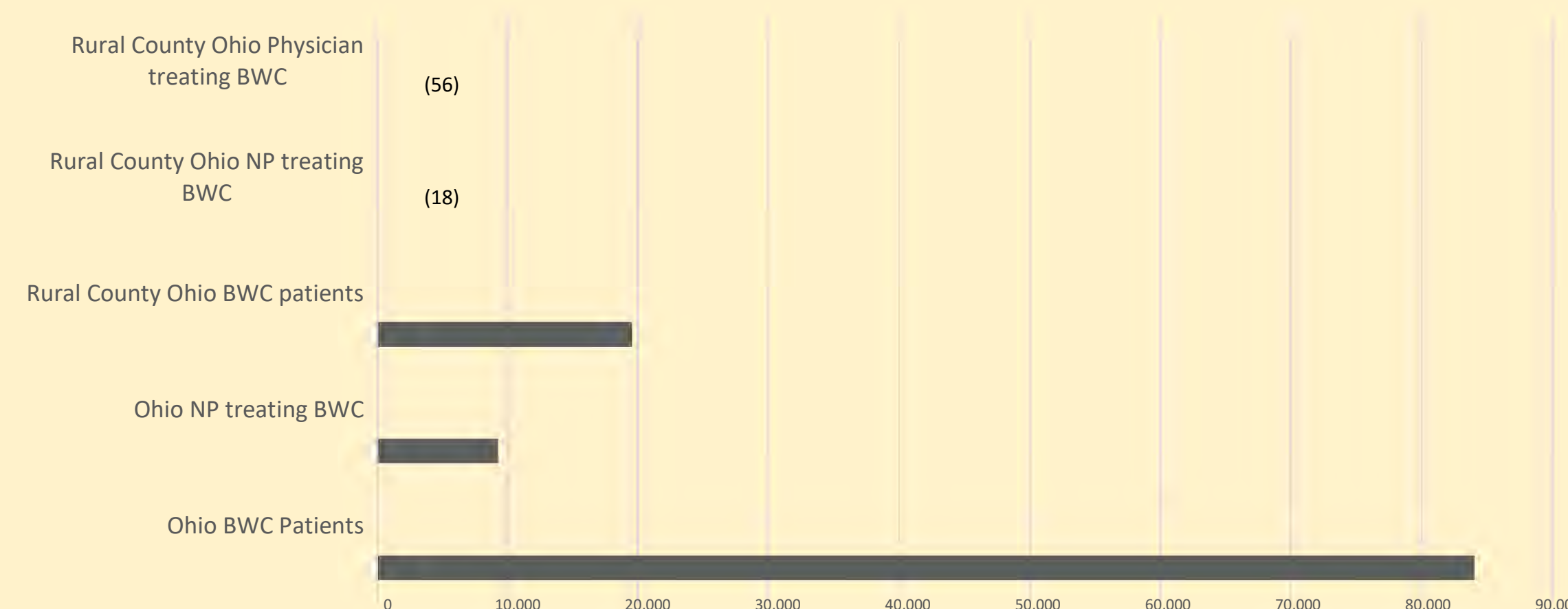
Based on the results of the study, the conclusions are as follows:

- There is no clinical significance in allowing NPs to sign Medco-14 forms for Ohio WC patients.
- A recommendation was given to the professional nursing organization to propose a legislative change allowing NPs to sign the Medco-14 form.
- Lobbying for a practice change can begin by the organization for NPs to be able to sign the Medco-14 form independently using the data from this needs analysis project.

Abstract



Ohio BWC Provider Statistics



References

